

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the production of a wood body having high durability, dimensional stability and surface hardness, ~~characterized in that comprising~~ ~~impregnating~~ an untreated wood body ~~is impregnated~~ with an aqueous solution of

- A) an impregnating agent selected from the group consisting of 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol or mixtures thereof, 1,3-dimethyl-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, dimethylolurea, bis(methoxymethyl)urea, tetramethylolacetylenediurea, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)imidazolidin-2-one, methylolmethylurea ~~or and~~ mixtures thereof, and
- B) a catalyst selected from the group consisting of the metal salts, ~~or~~ ammonium salts, organic acids, ~~or~~ inorganic acids ~~or and~~ mixtures thereof,
and then hardened hardening while maintaining humid conditions at elevated temperature.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the impregnating agent used is

- A) 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol or mixtures thereof, ~~or mixtures thereof~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that wherein~~ the impregnating agent used is A) 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol or a mixture thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein an impregnating agent C) selected from the group consisting of a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof is concomitantly used.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that wherein methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, n-pentanol, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, 1,2- and 1,3-propylene glycol, 1,2-, 1,3- and 1,4-butylene glycol, glycerol, polyethylene glycols of the formula HO(CH₂CH₂O)_nH, where n is from 3 to 20, or mixtures thereof are concomitantly used.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that wherein methanol, diethylene glycol or a mixture thereof is concomitantly used.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the impregnating agents A) and, if appropriate, optionally C) are used in a concentration of from 1 to 60% by weight in the aqueous solution.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 7,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein metal salts selected from the group consisting of metal halides, metal sulfates, metal nitrates, metal tetrafluoroborates, metal phosphates ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that wherein metal salts selected from the group consisting of magnesium chloride,

magnesium sulfate, zinc chloride, lithium chloride, lithium bromide, boron trifluoride, aluminum chloride, aluminum sulfate, zinc nitrate, sodium tetrafluoroborate ~~or and~~ mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ ammonium salts selected from the group consisting of ammonium chloride, ammonium sulfate, ammonium oxalate, diammonium phosphate ~~or and~~ mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ organic or inorganic acids selected from the group consisting of maleic acid, formic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, oxalic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, boric acid ~~or and~~ mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ magnesium chloride is used as catalyst B).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the catalyst B) is used in a concentration of from 0.1 to 10% by weight, based on the amount of the impregnating agents A) and, if appropriate optionally, C).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 13~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened at a relative humidity of from 50 to 100%.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened at a relative humidity of from 80 to 100%.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 15~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened at a temperature of from 70 to 130°C.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 16~~, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened over a period of from 1 to 72 hours.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 17~~, characterized in that, claim 1, wherein after the impregnation, the wood body is fixed so that a change in the shape of the wood body during the hardening is counteracted.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A wood body having high durability, dimensional stability and surface hardness, obtainable obtained by a process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1.